



"Our Home, our Country, and our Brother Man."

CUTTING AND CURING WHEAT EARLY.

The few who sowed wheat last fall, among us, met with two disasters—the drought in the fall, and winter-killing—so that there will not be much of that crop to cut in Maine. The disasters to the wheat were equally so to the grass, and even more so, for we have no doubt, if the facts could be ascertained, that there was proportionally twice as much grass destroyed by the drought and the winter frosts, as there was wheat. Spring wheat looks exceedingly promising, and although it is not time to harvest by some weeks, we have been reminded of the subject of cutting it by an article by the editor of the Country Gentleman, in one of his recent numbers. It is a subject often discussed. We believe the true principle to be pursued is this: Wheat intended for seed should be sowed to become deep ripe; wheat intended for white fine flour should be cut before it is fairly ripe, indeed, before it is perfectly hard. This is conformable to the nature of things. Nature, when left to herself, sows the seeds of plants in this way. It hangs upon its parent stalk until perfectly ripe—until every part and ingredient is fully formed, and there is no part that requires or receives anything more from the main stock. It then falls off and drops upon the ground. It then contains all the required elements necessary for the sustenance of the young plant, before it can derive support from the soil, and at germination there is a full supply of material to be wrought upon by the chemical action which takes place at that period.

On the other hand, if the wheat be wanted for fine flour, it is well to cut it as soon as the starch is fully formed, and before it is changed in part to woody fibre, or bran, as it does in some degree if suffered to continue longer.

If cut when the kernel is in the dough state, it certainly makes better flour than if suffered to become dead ripe.

The writer above named seems to prefer stacking wheat out, to storing it in the barn, provided it be stacked as it ought to be. On this point he makes the following remarks:—

"A gentleman who has spent some time in Europe, said to us lately,—There is one thing in which the English do beat us, and no mistake, and that is in stacking their grain. They seldom put any grain in barns, and every farm has an enclosed portion of land near the barn, called a stack yard. In this they have strong wooden frames, placed two and a half to three feet above the ground, and resting on stone pillars, and capped so that mice or rats cannot get into the wheat stacks which are made upon the frames. They seldom stack any wheat upon the ground, but when they do it is astonishing what a difference there is at threshing time, between it and the same kind of wheat placed on the frames, so that the air can penetrate through it."

To this remark of the traveller, the Editor adds,—"All this is true, and while we are happily under no necessity of using so much caution against dampness in stacking grain as the British farmer, yet we should do well to avoid the common practice of stacking grain—hay, cornstalks, &c., on the bare ground. A few rails and some cord wood make excellent stack bottoms, when covered with a little straw, indeed they may be so placed as to make a temporary frame through which the air may circulate between the stack and the ground."

Our farmers have not for some years past raised very extensive crops of wheat, and they are generally in the habit of putting it into barns. Oftentimes these barns are so tight and close as to injure the wheat on account of lack of ventilation. The art of stacking out is not well understood among us in the interior of the State, as it is in those places where larger amounts of wheat are raised. We have seen it well done in some parts of the Aroostook in times past.

For the Maine Farmer.

TO EXTINGUISH FIRE.

Mr. Editor:—Thinking that the substance of the following extract from Dick's work on "Diffusion of Knowledge," should be frequently published, that it may be fresh in the minds of all, I enclose it to you for publication.

Frankfort, July, 1855. ARCHIBALD JONES.

When the clothes of females take fire, as the fire generally begins at the lower parts of the dress, so long as they continue in an upright posture, the flames, naturally ascending, and meeting with additional fuel as they rise, become more powerful in proportion, whereby the neck, head, and other vital parts of the body are liable to be much injured; and by running from one part of the room to another, or from one apartment to another, as is most frequently the case the air which is the fuel of fire, gains free access to every part of their apparel, and feeds the increasing flame. In such cases, the sufferer should instantly throw her clothes over her head, and roll or lie upon them, in order to prevent the ascent of flames and fresh air. When this cannot conveniently be effected, she may still avoid great agony, and save her life, by throwing herself at full length on the floor, and rolling herself thereon. Though this method may not in every case completely extinguish the flame, it will, to a certainty, retard its progress, and prevent fatal injury to the vital parts. When assistance is at hand, the bystanders should immediately wrap a carpet, a hearth rug, a great coat or a blanket, around the head and body of the sufferer, who should be laid in a recumbent position, which will prove a certain preventive from danger.

STUMP PULLER.

As soon as haying is over, or at any rate before "snow flies," some of our thrifty farmers will want to get into some of their fields, and clear out the stumps and old snags; the remains of the former forest, which have been so long in their way. In order to assist them a little in their way, we give them a cut and description of a very simple contrivance for pulling stumps, which any one who has two strong chains and a stout log, can get up in a short time. We are indebted to the New England Farmer for the figure and description of it, and it gives its story thus:—

"Here is a contrivance so simple that any farmer may make one before breakfast; and the cost is so trifling, that if it does not operate to his entire satisfaction, he will have no regrets at having given it a fair trial. We find it sketched in the Wisconsin and Iowa Farmer."

"We noticed a very simple contrivance for pulling stumps, which Mr. Edgerton says works very well indeed. It is so simple in its structure, that we commend it to those wishing anything of the kind. It consists of a log of strong timber, from ten to twelve inches in diameter at the large end, and eight to ten at the smaller, and about sixteen or twenty feet long. To the larger end is attached a very heavy chain, about three feet long, with a large hook and strong bolt at the free end, while at the other there is a ring sufficiently large to slip over the larger end of the log or lever. To the small end of the lever a yoke of cattle is hitched. The manner of using it is as simple as the machine, and acts on the principle of some tooth-hooks of the dentist. The large hook is caught hold of some of the stronger roots, and the cattle are then driven round the stump so as to wind up the short heavy chain, and then continue on in the even tenor of their way, till the stump gives itself and surrenders its position. Thus they are removed, easily and rapidly. A rough sketch of this 'cork screw,' as it was technically called, we here give."

SUCCESSIVE CROPS OF CORN.

We hear of Indian corn being grown for a great number of years in succession on the bottom lands of some of the western rivers, and apparently no diminution in the amount of the crops. We know that this cannot be done on other lands. The reason, of course, must be this: the bottom lands are, in the first place, made up of fine particles than most other lands, and hence the roots of the corn come in contact with more surface of particles, and can draw nourishment more fully and equally; and in the second place, these lands contain an immense amount of the material or ingredients required to nourish or form the corn, and hence it will take a long series of years and successive crops to exhaust it. Our hard soils are of coarser texture, and do not contain so much of corn food, whatever it may be, as do those lands. And yet, agricultural skill and labor may accomplish by art what nature has denied. By supplying every year what has been taken away with the crop, and by pulverizing and well working the soil so as to render its texture more fine, corn may be grown quite a number of years—indeed, any number of years in succession without any diminution of amount.

The experiments of Mr. Lawes, mentioned well before last in the Farmer in regard to his raising wheat eleven years in succession on one piece of land, and increasing instead of diminishing the crop, prove this.

The same course may be pursued with any crop, provided we know what is deficient in the soil, and what to supply. We find a communication in the Boston Cultivator of last week over the signature of C. M., touching upon this subject. The experiments there detailed are rather rough ones, but they seem to have been successful. The mode consists principally in returning a considerable part of the corn crop to the land again. The following is an extract from it. In addition to the corn stalks, we think the cobs, after the corn was shelled off, might be used.

"A few years ago while travelling south, I witnessed this mode of corn-culture carried to the greatest perfection on a fine plantation in Georgia, the sixth crop in succession having just been carried off the land, superior to any that I had before seen in the country. I had before visited for a couple of days a fine farm on the James river, and seen the hands busily engaged cutting the corn-crop close to the ground on a large field that was to form a portion of the regular wheat till for that year, but the weeds were so high and thick that it was impossible for the ploughs immediately following to bury them, although having to be drawn back and cleared every few yards; leaving the surface of the land after haying in the seed wheat, in hills and hollows, the manager giving it as his opinion that the yield at harvesting would be more than three bushels per acre! This I saw on James river, while farther south I found the hands of a large plantation 'backing' hay on a corn-stubble, the crop, a miserable one, having been removed to an adjoining pasture, to afford room for this singular process, the manager calculating that the yield of what he termed hay, would be more than two tons per acre, although the hands had been kept busy the whole of the year, and the weeds to continue to grow! Afterwards, on coming to the plantation first described, I determined to examine the way in which the cultivation was managed, which was as follows:—

The plantation measured four hundred acres, one half being set apart for corn, the other for cotton, with no internal fence, or a division save

a carriage road through it. Here the crop had been cut and removed, the stalks remaining two feet in height, with not a weed, scarcely, to be seen, each row of corn having occupied the centre of a high ridge five feet in width, with deep, intervening furrows, the owner informing me that soon these long stalks would be chopped a little below the surface of the land and be carefully placed along the open furrow, close following, from which a portion of prepared compost would be spread on them, the ploughs throwing a double furrow on all; so to be left until the spring, when the corn would be planted on this ridge without any previous stirring, the sides of the old ridge being again thrown to and from during the season of working, leaving the next year's corn on what was now the furrow, a fallow crop. He remarked, this was the sixth crop in succession raised from the same land, and the best of all, while the cotton-crop had been cultivated in the same way with equal success, the stalks, after picking, having been beaten down and buried in the open furrows with an addition of compost and a turn of the plough following. Here too the land was as clean as a garden, the weeds having been exhausted by the mode of culture adopted, at the commencement of which course the corn would not average more than six or seven feet, but now reaching the height of ten or twelve; the height of the cotton, from three to four feet, had reached the height of seven feet, with a quality superior as the quantity. This is what I saw, and if it be true 'what man has done, man may do,' I must be excused for advocating the growth of corn on the same land many years in succession, without any extraordinary culture."

RYE AND BONES.

Mr. Editor:—With this, I send you a few heads of rye, that is considered in this vicinity a new variety, inasmuch as it is four rows instead of two.

I have not selected the largest heads, but about a fair medium sized lot from the whole piece—a large half acre—about one half of it is of this kind, and as it is a new thing with us, will you please inform us whether it is a common kind or variety with you or not; as you on the Kennebec would be likely to have it, if it was anything extra.

When I say that it is the handsomest piece of rye that I ever have seen on "old ground," I only use the language of others who have seen it.

I have other pieces of winter rye, as well as of wheat, but the heads of winter made and have amongst the roots of the same, and reduced it about one half in quantity.

This I send you was grown on a light sandy soil, from which I took a mixed crop of potatoes and corn last season. If this species of rye is not a common variety, I will save it for seed, although I had intended to put it "through the mill" as quick as possible, for we are actually suffering for the good old-fashioned loaf of brown bread, that we have been deprived of for so long a time, for the want of a little rye to make it go well.

All of our growing crops bid fair, much beyond our expectation a month ago—fruit, especially. I cannot speak very encouragingly about apples. I am afraid we shall be disappointed in relation to an abundance of apples this fall—they seem to blight and fall from the tree prematurely; so that I think the apple crop will not exceed the last year's crop.

Stone fruit promises abundant. Cabbages will be cabbages in our diggins this fall, if there isn't a sudden stop put to a species of worm, that has suddenly sprung up among us, which destroys them very rapidly.

Our hay crop, to the disappointment of every body, will be better than last year, and a better "catch" of grass seed than of that sown last spring, never was.

By the way, I wanted to enquire about the validity of a certain theory, advanced last spring and winter, by the agricultural papers in general, about reducing bones to a consistency that would at once fit them for a profitable application to the soil—here is the substance of the recommendation:—

"Let a barrel or hoghead be set in some convenient place, wherein all the bones usually scattered from the kitchen may be collected. This will save the farmers' back yard from one source of offence, and his premises from the annoyance of prowling curs, if no more. Put in first a layer of ashes, and then spread on the bones—the more evenly the better—then add more ashes and sufficient water to keep them well moistened, but not so as to leach. Continue the addition of bones, keeping on sufficient ashes to cover them, and generally before the barrel is full, those at the bottom will become a soft, paste-like mass, readily cut with a shovel, and should then be mixed with the ashes. The whole forms an excellent application to almost any crop, either for field or garden. We have tried it upon the latter with the best effect, especially upon cabbages, turnips, beans, and various vines."

Now sir, I have a few hhd. and barrels up last April, just as recommended, and if every bone isn't as hard as when put in, then I should be glad to know it!

Now Doctor, as we all consider you under an obligation to tell us all you know, and that is about everything, excepting who will be governor, I would thank you to tell me what I had better do with the bones and ashes, that I have "per bill" packed away so snugly. I have been thinking about having them ground in a plaster mill, but the miller says they cannot be. With all confidence I shall wait your counsel, and remain Truly yours, E. G. B. Yarmouth, Me., July 23, 1855.

NOTE. The specimens of rye, received from friend Buxton, are very good. The variety (four rows) is but little, if any, cultivated in our vicinity, and we think he had better force a little "rye and injury" just now, and save the crop for seed. We speak for a couple of bushels of it, to sow this August.

As for his bones. Did he break them up fine, and were his ashes strong?

A better way would have been, to have leached his ashes, as in making soap, and after break-

ing up the bones, put them into the strong caustic lye.

Why do ashes, or the lye from ashes, corrode and disintegrate bones? Because the particles of bones are held together by gelatine, or, as it is more commonly called, glue. Caustic lye will dissolve this glue, and as fast as it dissolves a particle of it, a particle of bone is left, and falls to powder. Probably, if the ashes were good, which our friend used, the lye would have been too mild—that is, the carbonic acid, which materially belongs to it when with the ashes, has not been taken from it, and hence it will not dissolve the glue in the bones. Quick lime, mingled with the ashes, would have taken the carbonic acid to itself, and left the lye caustic. His good wife will tell him, when he sets up a leach tub for her, to put a little lime at the bottom of the ashes, so that the lye, as it trickles down through the ashes, shall run at least through the lime. The lime will grab the carbonic acid away from the lye, and let it run out strong (caustic). It will then, "eat" your grass—your hands, or your house; rather the glue on your bones. Now wouldn't it be a good plan, friend B., to draw off what lye there may be in your hoghead, and then pour out the ashes—pick out the bones—put some lime at the bottom of your hoghead—refill it with your ashes—pour back the lye and let it pass through again? As it passes through the lime, it will give up its carbonic acid to it, and be drawn off in a more caustic state. Then crack up your bones with an old axe, or beetle, or sledge—tumble them into the lye and let them crumble. Well, suppose we do all this, and the bones fall to powder, what is the lye good for? This will be a solution of glue and potash—what grease may have been in the bones, will also combine with the potash, and if boiled down, you will have a sort of soap. Now, all this matter is food for plants, and this mixture of glue soap, will be excellent to mingle with muck, or put into the compost heap; or, if left with the bone powder, will add to its value.

AGRICULTURE IN MAINE.

Mr. Editor: I have penned a few facts in regard to the agricultural interest of Maine, which you are at liberty to publish, if you feel so disposed. The present extravagant price of breadstuffs has at length aroused the farming community of this State from their agricultural lethargy, to a consciousness of their dependence on the southern and western States for bread. And they have resolved that if provisions retain their present prices another year, to be the gainers thereby. There has been more planted in Maine, this year, by one-third, perhaps by one-half, than in any previous year for ten years past; and I am led to suppose that Maine will now take a deeper interest in farming than she ever has before, from the fact, that for years past the agricultural portions of our State have had other resources than farming, and that of lumbering. Lumbering has been the chief cause of the neglect which a very large majority of our farms exhibit. That, however, in most of our farming districts, is growing scarce. This, with the present high price of provisions, renders it highly necessary that our agricultural friends should take more interest and display more energy in farming than they have heretofore. A very large portion of our land has become exhausted and almost worthless from continually taking away from the soil, without restoring anything in the shape of manure. Consequently an extra effort will have to be made to renovate such lands. Another hindrance to the promotion of agriculture in this State is, that a great many who farm to-day are decidedly behind the times. You talk of them of muck, which is a very common fertilizer, and they will deny its fertilizing qualities, and pronounce it one of the humbugs of book-farming.

Last winter I hauled a load of sawdust from a neighboring mill to litter my cattle with. One of my neighbors was present, who, perhaps, had farmed it fifty years; he inquired what use I should make of it; on learning that I was going to load my cattle with it, he expressed much surprise, and inquired if it would not spoil the manure. There is an immense quantity of sawdust in Maine, which might be cleared and drained, and rendered very valuable as grass lands, and are left for fuel woods and all kinds of shrubbery to spring up and degrade the farm. There are, however, who are not aware of the value of such lands, and are not at all of investing a sum requisite to reclaim them into fine meadows of grass, which supply pay for their time and trouble, and a good profit besides.

Maine has every facility for becoming one of the first farming States of New England. Her soil is good—her soil hardy. But farming has been considered, here as elsewhere, a low occupation, and those that till the soil have been looked upon as little better than the slaves of the south. They begin, however, to look at it in a different light, and the time is not far distant when it will be considered a science, and brought on an equal with other professions.

J. M. Sequest, Me., June 15, 1855.

[New England Farmer.]

HINTS FOR GARDENERS.

All growers of raspberries, gooseberries, blackberries, currants, &c., can secure their bushes against disease and unproductiveness, by mulching the roots well. Any old trash in the garden answers for this purpose—such as weeds, grass, leaves, and the scumplings from the kitchen. It acts as an exterminator from the avenues.

It acts as a cooler and moistener of the soil—as the best manure, when it rots, that can possibly be applied. We never knew a gooseberry bush that had been properly thinned out, and not bound up too closely, showing mildewed fruit, or that did not bear abundantly every year. These mulchings should be applied three times in the season—in the spring, in midsummer, and late in the fall.

It should also be remembered, as it respects raspberries, that any grubbing or digging about their roots, should be carefully avoided. In nearly if not quite every instance where we have disturbed the roots of the raspberry, the stalks either perished over winter, or were so much injured as to be next to worthless the following season. [Germanstown Telegraph.]

THE SONG OF THE RAIN.

Lo! the long slender spears, how they quiver and flash, Where the clouds send their cavalry down; Rank and file by the million the rain-lances dash Over mountain and river and town: Thick the battle-drops fall—but they drip not in blood; The trophy to war is the green fresh bud: Oh, the rain, the plentiful rain!

The pasture he laked, and the furrow is bare, The wells they yawn empty and dry; But a rushing of waters is heard in the air, And a rainbow leaps out in the sky. Mark! the heavy drops pelt the sycamore leaves, How they wash the wide pavement, and sweep from the eaves! Oh, the rain, the plentiful rain!

See, the weaver throws open his airy swinging pane, The raindrops dash in on the floor, And his wife brings her flower pots to drink the sweet rain. On the step by his half-open door: At the pane on the skylight, far over his head, Smiles their poor crippled lad on his hospital bed. Oh, the rain, the plentiful rain!

And away, far from men, where high mountains tower, The little green mosses rejoice, And the best-beaded heather nods to the shower, And the hill-borrows lift up their voice: And the pools in the hollows await the fight Of the rain, as their thousand points dart in light: Oh, the rain, the plentiful rain!

And deep in the fir-wood below, near the plain, A single thrush pipes full and sweet, How days of clear shining will come after rain, Waving meadows, and thick-growing wheat: So the voice of Hope sings, at the heart of our fears, Of the harvest that springs from a great nation's tears: Oh, the rain, the plentiful rain!

FISHES AND THEIR MIGRATIONS.

For known and for unknown purposes, in the tiny mountain brooks and in the wide ocean, fishes are seen in unceasing motion, darting in all directions, traveling now single and now in shoals. Their regular journeys are mostly undertaken for the purpose of spawning; the delicate mackerel moves southward when its time comes, and the beautiful sardine of the Mediterranean goes in spring westward, and returns in autumn to the east. The sturgeon of northern Europe is seen yearly to ascend the great rivers of the Continent, and the ornamental migratory salmon of the polar seas, we know not how, through rivers and lakes, up into the Balkans, and there swim, in whimsical alternations, but always in immense crowds, first on the southern and then on the northern bank. The travels of the salmon are probably best known, because the fish was a favorite in the days of Pliny, and yet, strange enough, is found in every sea in the Arctic, near the equator, and off New Holland, only not in the Mediterranean. They press in large, triangular masses, up all the great northern rivers of Europe, Asia, and America. They enter Bohemia by the Sava, sail up the river Elbe, they approach Switzerland in the green waters of the Rhine, and even the foot of the Cordilleras, by a journey of 3,000 miles up the Amazon! Their crowds are not unfrequently so dense that they actually stem a while the current of mighty rivers; still these bands are formed with great regularity. The strongest and largest females lead—a fact which will rejoice the strong-minded women of our age—followed by others of the same sex, traveling two and two, at regular intervals; after them come the males in like order. With a noise like the distant roaring of a storm, they rush up the stream, now sporting in easy, graceful motion, and now darting ahead with lightning speed that the eye cannot follow. Do they come to some rock or wall that impedes their way, they leap with incredible force, and repeat the effort until they have overcome the difficulty; it is even said that, at the foot of the cataraets, they will take their tail in their mouth and then suddenly letting it go, like an elastic spring, rise twelve or fifteen feet in the air. And thus they travel on, undismayed and untired, until they have found a suitable place for depositing their eggs, and with the same marvelous instinct return year after year, to the distant ocean.

The herring is a small, insignificant fish, yet it gives food to millions, and employment to not less than 3,000 decked vessels, not to speak of all the open boats employed in the same fishery. Where their home is, man does not know; it is only certain that they are not met with beyond a certain degree of northern latitude, and that the genuine herring never enters the Mediterranean, and hence remains unknown to the ancients. In April and June, all of a sudden, innumerable masses appear in the northern seas, forming vast banks, often thirty miles long and ten miles wide. Their depth has never been satisfactorily ascertained, and their denseness may be judged by the fact, that lances and harpoons thrust in between them sink and move not, remain standing upright! Divided into bands, herrings also move in a certain order. Long before their arrival, already their coming is noticed by the flocks of sea-birds that watch them from on high, while sharks are seen to sport around them, and a thick oily substance is spread over their columns, coloring the sea in the daytime, and shining with a mild, mysterious light in the dark, still night. The sea-serpent, the "monstrous chimera" of the learned, precedes them, and is homes by fishermen called the King of the herrings. Then there are first seen single males, often three or four days in advance of the great army; next follow the strongest and largest, and after them enormous shoals, countless like the sand on the sea-shore, and the stars in the heaven. They seek places that abound in stones and marine plants, where to spawn, and like other animals they frequent the location to which they have been accustomed at a regular time, so that they may be expected as surely as the sun rises and sets.

Other fishes have strange peculiarities connected with their travels. Thus, we are told that the mackerel spend their winter in, what would appear to others, a most uncomfortable position. In the Arctic as well as in the Mediterranean, as soon as winter comes, they deliberately plunge their head and the anterior part of their body into deep mud, keeping their tails erect, standing straight up. This position they do not change until spring, when they emerge, in incredible numbers, from their hiding-places and go southward for the purpose of depositing their eggs in more genial waters. Still they are so firmly wedged to this element that they die the instant they are taken out of the water, and then shine with phosphorescent light.

The cod is the strangest of travelling fishes; he often performs journeys on land. In hot dry summers, when ponds and pools are exhausted, he boldly leaves his home, and winding through thick grass, makes his way by night to the nearest water. He is a great gourmand, moreover, and loves young tender peas so dearly that he will leave the river itself and climb up steep banks to satisfy his desire, and, alas! to fall into the snares of wicked men. Other fishes travel in large crowds all night long, and a perch in Tranquebar not only creeps on shore, but actually climbs up tall fan-palms, in pursuit of certain shell-fish, which form its favorite food. Covered with viscid slime, he glides smoothly over the rough bark; spines, which he may sheath and unfold at will, serve him like hands to hang by, and with the aid of side fins and a powerful tail he pushes himself upward, thus completing the strange picture of fish and shell-fish dwelling high on lofty trees. [Putnam's Monthly.]

WHERE MOSQUITOES COME FROM.

A writer on entomology, discussing about these summer pests, thus handles the subject: "The mosquito proceeds from the animalcule commonly termed the 'wiggie-tail.' I took a bowl of clean water and set it in the sun. In a few days some half-dozen wiggie-tails were visible. These continued to increase in size till they were about 3-16ths of an inch in length. As they approached their maturity they remained longer at the surface, seeming to live in the two mediums—air and water.—Finally, they assumed the form of a minute caterpillar. And thus its specific gravity being counteracted, or lightened, it readily floated to the surface, and the slightest breath of air wafted it against the side of the bowl. In a very brief space of time afterwards, the warm atmosphere hatched out the fly, and it escaped, leaving its tiny house upon the water. How beautiful, yet how simple!

After the water had gone through this process, I found it perfectly free from animalcule. I therefore came to the conclusion that this wiggie-tail is a species of the shark, who, having devoured whole tribes of animalcules, takes to himself wings and escapes into a different medium to torture mankind, and deposit eggs upon the water to produce other mosquitoes.

Any man who has 'kept house,' with a cistern in the yard, has doubtless observed the same effect every summer. Open your cistern cover any morning in the mosquito season, and millions of them will fly up in your face. Close the windows of your room at night, at the risk of being smothered for want of air, being careful at the same time previously to exclude every mosquito, and go to bed with a pitcher of that same cistern water in the room, and enough will breed from it during the night to give you any satisfactory amount of trouble. In fact, standing by a shallow, half-stagnant pool, in a midsummer's day, you may see the wiggie-tails become perfectly developed mosquitoes, and they will rise from the surface of the water, and fly into your face and sting you. What it is necessary to know at this day is—has there yet been discovered any positive exterminator of that infernal pest, and disorder of night's slumbers, the mosquito?

WORTH KNOWING. One pound of green copper (cost seven cents) dissolved in one quart of water and poured down a privy, will effectually concentrate and destroy the foulest smells. For water closets on board ships and steamboats, about hotels and other places, there is nothing so nice to cleanse and purify those places, as simple green copper, dissolved; and for sick rooms, it may be placed under the bed in any thing which will hold water, and thus render a hospital or other place of the sick, free from unpleasant smells. For butchers' stalls, fish markets, slaughter houses, sinks, and wherever there are putrid and offensive gases, dissolve copper and sprinkle it about, and in a few days the 'bad smell' will pass away. If a cat, rat or mouse dies about the house and sends forth an offensive gas, place some dissolved copper in a cup or jar, anywhere within 'smelling distance,' and the cure is sure. I have known a stock of dry goods which were nearly spoiled by a 'skunk' under a store, to be cleaned and restored simply by sprinkling dissolved copper about the floor. [Salem Gazette.]

LONDON CURRANTS. A writer in the Horticultural speaks of the fine currants of the market gardens near London, which are grown in the following manner: They are planted in rows twenty or thirty feet apart, and three or four feet apart in the rows; the ground which is naturally good is highly manured, and cropped down with vegetables. When the plants commence bearing, they are pruned very hard; the greater part of the young wood is thinned out, and what is allowed to remain is shortened back to three or four inches. By this means the trees are always kept short, never attaining a greater height than two or three feet. These strong manured and well-pruned trees produce magnificent fruit, and in great abundance, well remunerating the market gardener for his trouble.

NEW HAY PRESS. A patent has been granted to a man in Illinois for a new hay press. It presses the bales into a square form, and the levers act so as to press them when moving both forwards and backwards; that is, no time is lost when one bale is pressed, in returning the followers to the point where they commenced, to press in the box a second bale from the point where they commenced to return. There is no time lost, therefore, in running back the followers and hooping the bale, as this is done while the box is being filled for the succeeding bale.

CULTIVATED AND UNCULTIVATED LAND IN GREAT BRITAIN. There are under cultivation in England, Wales, Scotland, Ireland, and the British Islands, 46,522,770 acres of land; capable of improvement, 15,000,000 acres; and land considered unprofitable, 15,871,463 acres.

DOMESTIC RECEIPTS.

SELECTED FROM VARIOUS SOURCES.

BLACKBERRY DIARRHOEA CORDIAL. The following is said to be not only an excellent and pleasant beverage, but a cure for the diarrhoea, &c. Recipe. To half a bushel of blackberries, well washed, add 1 pound allspice, 3 oz. cinnamon, 3 oz. cloves. Pulverise well, mix, and boil slowly until properly done. Then strain or squeeze the juice through muslin or flannel, and add to each pint of the juice one pound of loaf sugar; boil again for some time; skim off, and while cooling, add half a gallon of the best Cognac brandy. Dose: For an adult, half a gill; for a child, a teaspoonful or more, according to age.

PINK APPLE JELLY. Take a perfectly ripe and sound pine-apple, cut off the outside, cut it in small pieces; bruise them, and to each pound put a tea-cup of water; put it in a preserving-kettle over the fire, cover the kettle and boil twenty minutes; then strain it, and squeeze it through a bit of muslin. For each pound of fruit take a pound of sugar; put a tea-cup of water to each pound; set it over the fire until it is dissolved; then add the pine-apple juice.—For each quart of the syrup, clarify an ounce of the best isinglass, and stir it in; let it boil until, by taking some on a plate to cool, you find it a stiff jelly. Secure it as directed.

A NEW PRESERVE. A correspondent sends us the following: "I have lately been very busy making a new kind of preserve, which, I may say, is quite a discovery, to me at least, and which promises to insure me a plentiful supply of good, wholesome jam for my family during the winter, at a price below the usual cost of preserves. I was, the other day, making some ordinary apple jam, and before finishing it, I put in some blackberry juice, in order to give it a little color, and I was surprised at finding how much the preserve was improved by the addition; so much so, that it might be mistaken for damson jam. As you will see by the following proportions, the cost must be very small, wherever apples and blackberries are to be got. I put two quarts of the juice of blackberries—that is, I bring the berries up to a simmer for five minutes, and then strain them through a coarse cloth—and about six pounds' weight of cut-up apples, and one pound of crushed lump-sugar, and set it up in a usual way, till the apples are stewed down, and the mass becomes of the usual thickness. It is wholesome and good, and I thought that what was within any one's reach ought to be known." [Godey's Lady's Book.]

SUMMER SNOWBALLS. Simmer half a pound of rice until it is tender, then strain it. Take five or six apples, of middling size, pare them and take out the core with a small knife or apple scoop, but do not cut them into sections. Into the hollow made by cutting out the core, put sugar and a little allspice. Divide the rice into a portion for each apple, and tie them separately in a small cloth, and boil an hour.—These dumplings, or snowballs, may be served with sweet sauce, or eaten with simple sugar or treacle.

BUFF COLOR ON COTTON. Copperas and lime makes a very good buff color, and very cheap. The goods are generally run through the lime water at the commencement. About one pound of copperas (sulphate of iron) will dye ten pounds of cotton a deep buff. It is best to give the goods a number of dips. A dark buff cannot be produced by giving the full strength of the iron at one dip. The color is an oxide of iron. The goods are of a green color when they come out of the copperas liquor, but become yellowish as they absorb oxygen from the air.—They have therefore to be aired well every dip. The lime and copperas impart a hardness to the goods, and they therefore require to be run through strong soap suds, to soften their fibre.

By adding about two ounces of sugar of lead to every pound of copperas, a color little inferior to that produced by the nitrate of iron is the result. [Scientific American.]

WARTS. The oil from the outside shell of walnuts or butternuts will cure warts by a few applications.

CURE FOR WART STINGS. Some unfortunate, last year, while picking peaches, was stung in the finger by a yellow wasp. The wound caused effusion of blood, and inflamed the arm to the shoulder. Saleratus, made into a paste with water, was soon applied as a poultice, and in half an hour had so completely neutralized the acid poison, that the swelling had entirely gone down, and nothing remained but the soreness occasioned by the puncture. This application has proved better than liquid ammonia, so far as a limited trial has proved, and is probably the best remedy for stings generally. It is important that the nearest alkaline substance at hand should be applied till a better can be found whether it be ammonia, or even paste of fresh ashes. In the absence of all these, a mud poultice is an excellent remedy. [Buffalo Democracy.]

TO PREVENT FRUIT TREES FROM SPLITTING. For preventing forked fruit trees from splitting under their weight of fruit, Isaac Lewis of Hopkinsville, Kentucky, has given us his plan. "My plan," he writes, "which I have followed for thirty years, is this: When I find a forked tree that is likely to split, I look for a small limb on each fork, and clean them of leaves and lateral branches for most of their length. I then carefully bring them together and wind them round each other from one main branch to the other. In twelve months they will have united, and in two years the ends can be cut off. The trees will grow as fast as any other part of the tree, and is a perfect security from splitting. I have seen now of all sizes, and I scarcely ever know one to fall to grow."

ROLLING OLIVE SEED IN PLASTER. It is said that if clover is moistened with water and then dried by rolling it in plaster, the effect is decidedly beneficial. A friend informs us that he has adopted this practice for years, and with marked improvement in his clover crop. It is not much trouble, and is worth a trial.

By driving your business before, and not permitting your business to drive you, you will have opportunities to indulge in the luxuries of well applied leisure.



AUGUSTA:  
THURSDAY MORNING, AUGUST 1, 1885.

## FLOUR MONOPOLIZERS.

Monopolies in any thing are always odious, but monopolizing breadstuffs, or an attempt to do it, is infamous. Fair business transactions in flour and breadstuffs, based upon the actual supply and demand, are honorable and useful; but when speculators combine together to attempt to monopolize the crop, or to devise ways and means to stop the influx of it into the market, they are not only acting in a manner that is contrary to the public interest, but they are also acting in a manner that is contrary to the laws of the State.

There is no one that has more than a certain set of flour speculators, is abundantly manifest. Last year, the lack of abundant crops was an abundant harvest to them. It was natural that breadstuffs should be high in price, but by their acts of combination, they have kept the price up beyond what it naturally should be. This year, the crops have already rolled in. A heavy supply of wheat in many parts, and from the whole length and breadth of the land, the growing crops of all kinds, promise a still greater supply of different kinds of staples. Fearing from these indications, that their craft was in danger, it appears that a large body of these heartless speculators have had a secret conference, in order to devise ways and means to keep up the price of breadstuffs. Instead of being thankful for such bountiful harvests, they wish to circumvent the blessed liberality of heaven itself, and to keep their grip on the "staff of life," and grind the face of the poor into dust, by keeping up the exorbitant prices of flour and grain. In doing this, they have developed the avarice of their hearts and their desire to get rich out of the necessities of the poor.

There is one game that in some sections, we have been told, has been played and will probably be played again—that is, to get command of the means of transportation, and from the freight cars of railroads, canal boats, &c., and thus allow the supplies to come no faster than they permit. Whether this will again be attempted, or if attempted will succeed, remains to be seen. One thing is pretty certain, judging from the appearance of crops in Maine, there will not be so much called for from abroad to supply us, as for good many thousands of dollars last year. A vast deal more has been planted, and that more will yield a good supply and curtail largely the demand for outside produce, and all this will help reduce the price of breadstuffs down to a reasonable figure.

## BIBLE OR GALL.

A subscriber who writes requesting the best process for purifying bile or gall, to be used in combination with coloring matters for water colors, is informed that we are not acquainted with this process practically. What little we ever used any of it for that purpose, was in its natural state, after having been allowed to settle in a glass vessel for a day or two, and the clearest part poured off.

An old recipe we have by us, given by one who had used it considerably, recommends to put the clearest part that is poured off, into a dish, and expose to boiling heat for a short time, or until it becomes thick; then take it off and spread it on earthen plates and dry it before the fire. It may then be preserved any length of time, and when needed for use, dissolve in water such quantities as may be needed.

Another recipe was also given us to render it colorless, but we have never tried it. If our friend is desirous of experimenting with it, we give it to him and others, to attend to at their leisure.

Boil a pint of gall and skim it, and add an ounce of alum in powder. Boil another pint and add an ounce of common salt. Keep the mixture on the fire until the alum is dissolved. Pour it into a bottle, when cool, and let it stand ten or fifteen minutes, loosely corked. When fully settled, pour off the clear parts of both, and put them together—the salt and the alum—the coloring matter will settle and the gall become colorless. Suppose our friend should strain gall through animal charcoal, (ivory black for instance,) possibly this would dissolve it.

## REPAIRS OF THE DAM.

THE DAM. The work of rebuilding the lost portion of the dam is rapidly progressing. The bridges necessary have all been built, and vast quantities of stone have already been placed upon the remaining part ready for use. One section forty feet in width has been framed and sunk, and it is confidently believed that a new foundation has been reached. The charge of this repair is committed to Henry Williams, Esq., under whose energetic management, we doubt not it will be carried rapidly to completion. Within sixty days, at farthest, we apprehend the "Old Kennebec" will find itself forever checked in its course, and its only passage will be over the top of the dam. It will be a pleasant sound to hear once more the merry rattle and whirl of the machinery now waiting for its propelling power. (Age.)

We took a walk up to the dam the other day, and found the work of repair going on strong and lively. The Old Kennebec in his chafing has worn a deep hole, but there is rock and lumber enough close by to fill it up, and skill enough in the operatives to bind them together into a permanent dam. We also have had improvements going on at the Mills on Bridge's stream. Mr. Bridge has put up a durable and substantial stone dam and is putting his mill into thorough repair, has put in two new wheels of the best kind, and two runs of stones, and will have it ready for grinding in the course of this week, so that we shall no longer be dependent on other towns for a chance to get our wheat made into flour, or corn into meal.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS. Our agent, Mr. S. N. Tabor, will call upon subscribers in Penobscot county during the month of August. He is duly authorized to collect monies and receive subscriptions for the Maine Farmer.

WRECK OF THE OCEAN. The hull, machinery, &c., of the steamer Ocean, destroyed by fire last fall, was sold at auction on Thursday last, for the sum of \$1610, in cash.

GIBSON'S REPORT. Our thanks are due to Hon. S. P. Benson, for Part 23, of La. Gibson's report of Exploration of the valley of the Amazon. It is a very interesting report.

## KANSAS NEWS.

We noticed in our last the organization of the Kansas Legislature. Since then we have received the names of its members, with their political classification. There are twenty-six members, as follows:—

PRO-SLAVERY MEMBERS. Messrs. Anderson, Banks, Kirk, McGee, McMeekin, Payne, Scott, Ward, and Williams, of Kansas; Blair and Wilkinson, of Tennessee; Brown and Mathias, of Maryland; Croysdale, Wade, Whitlock and Younger, of Missouri; Harris, Haskell, Marshall, Thibault, and Woods, of Pennsylvania; and, of Kansas, Watson, of Pennsylvania.

FREE STATE. The officers, who are all of the pro-slavery party, are as follows:—J. Stringfellow, Speaker, Virginia; J. Lyle, Chief Clerk, Kentucky; Martin, Assistant Clerk, Tennessee; B. Simmons, Enrolling Clerk, Tennessee; J. M. Fox, Enrolling Clerk, Kentucky; C. C. Cramer, Sergeant-at-Arms, Virginia; B. P. Campbell, Door Keeper, New York.

By the way of St. Louis, Kansas dates to the 23d ult., state that Gov. Reeder had vetoed all the bills yet passed by the Legislature and presented to him for his signature, on the ground that the removal of the Legislature to Shawnee Mission was illegal, and in direct contravention of the Kansas-Nebraska Act. He considers the bills, in themselves, as not objectionable. The veto bills have all passed, by large majorities.

Later dates, to the 26th, state that "The committee appointed by the Legislature to draw up a memorial to the President for the removal of Governor Reeder, reported yesterday. The memorial set forth the various complaints against Gov. Reeder, calling him a dog to the wheels of government, and praying for his speedy removal."

## EDITORIAL TABLE.

PANORAMA OF LIFE AND LITERATURE. We have here the first number of a work that is destined to take the first rank among the monthlies. Compiled from the very best sources of American and foreign literature, suited alike for the student, the seeker for pleasure, or the home circle, it will be received with favor by the public. The number before us contains, among other articles, the following:—"Life of Sir Walter Raleigh," from the North British Review, highly interesting;—"Alwyn's First Wife," a touching story;—"Broad Cast upon the Waters," by "Lizzie Farrer's Christmas Eve," "The Emperor Nicholas," an interesting biography of the late Czar;—"Zaidie, a Romance," "Sister Anne," and "Macaulay and Kirke White." We give the enterprising proprietors, than whom none better know how to cater for the public taste, our best wishes for the success of their new venture in the literary world. Published monthly, 144 pages, for \$3 per annum. Boston: Little, Scott & Co.

PUTNAM'S MONTHLY. Putnam's for August furnishes its readers with a perfect feast. It opens with a paper on "Turkish Wars of Former Times," in which Capt. John Smith figures largely, and which will be found to well repay perusal. "My Lost Youth," is a poem, attributed, we think, to Longfellow, in which he describes Portland and Deering's Woods. Then follow "The Bell Tower," "Unknown Tongues," "The Language of Animals," "About Babies," "Life among the Mormons," "The River Fisheries of North America," "The Artificial Paradise of Fish," "Living in the Country," "The Armies of Europe," &c. &c. Published monthly, 144 pages, for \$3 per annum. Boston: Little, Scott & Co.

BLACKWOOD'S EDINBURGH MAGAZINE. The table of contents for July embraces the following articles:—"The Imperial Policy of Russia—Part I," "Zaidie—A Romance—Part VIII," "Notes on Canada and the North-West States of America—Part IV," "Letter to Eusebius," "Modern Light Literature—Theology," "Verrier," "The Story of the Campaign. Written in a Tent in the Crimea—Part VIII," "Two Years of the Condemned Cabinet," "Administrative Reform—The Civil Service," New York: L. Scott & Co., publishers. Terms \$3 per annum.

GODEY'S LADY'S BOOK. The August number of this work has a fine steel engraving, "The Widow," with a story in explanation, a large number of illustrations of fancy needle work, &c. We are much obliged to friend Godey for his "Receipts for Summer Beverages," and would recommend them to our friends. Price only 12 cts., and sent free of postage.

NEW YORK JOURNAL. This work offers its readers a number of very interesting articles, tales, &c., for the present month, with several engravings. Published in New York by Frank Leslie, at \$2 per annum.

FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES. If any of our readers wish to learn the best and easiest way of preserving all kinds of fruits and vegetables, let them send four postage stamps to T. B. Peterson, Philadelphia, and he will send them a book with all the necessary information.

## PIC-NIC EXCURSIONS.

The present being the most favorable part of the season for pic-nics and parties of pleasure, we have a number of very interesting articles, tales, &c., for the present month, with several engravings. Published in New York by Frank Leslie, at \$2 per annum.

ON THURSDAY, the Sabbath Schools of the Universalist and Methodist Societies of this city, had their annual picnic. The former, to the amount of some 200, proceeded over the S. & K. Railroad to Getchell's Cove, whence they walked to Oak Grove, being there joined by the Vassalboro' friends. We understand they had a fine time.

The Methodist Society took possession of the steamer Teaser, which was well filled, and proceeded down river to Swan's Island, where they landed, and spent the day very pleasantly, returning in the Teaser, in the evening. The weather was delightful, up river and down, and the excursion, by rail and water, was highly pleasing to the children.

OPENING OF THE PENOBSCOT AND KENNEBEC RAILROAD. The Bangor Mercury of Monday, July 23, stated that the next day an engine would proceed over the whole length of the road to Waterville, and bring back the passenger cars made for the company. It also under-stands that regular trains will commence running between Bangor and Waterville to-day, (July 30,) by which passengers leaving Bangor at 8 o'clock, A. M., may arrive in Boston the same evening.

CLEANING OUT THE CHANNEL. The work of deepening the channel of the river is going on. The Hallows' Gazette, of the 26th, says:—"The Government Boatmen under the direction of Capt. Geo. Williams, of Augusta, have been employed for the past week in removing obstructions from the channel of the river in the vicinity of the mill brook."

ADDRESS BEFORE THE STATE AG. SOCIETY. It gives us pleasure to state that Prof. J. A. Nash, of Amherst Mass., has consented to deliver the address before the Maine State Agricultural Society, at their Show, on the 27th of Sept. next. Prof. Nash is author of the book entitled the "Progressive Farmer," and editor of the "Farmer" published monthly at Amherst, Mass.

## THE WEATHER AND THE CROPS.

Favorable weather the past few weeks has pushed vegetation forward rapidly. The crops of all kinds in this vicinity promise well. From different parts of the State, also, we have highly favorable accounts of the farmer's prospects. The shortness of the hay crop, generally, did not prevent some cases of tall grass, a fine bunch of which, of different kinds, was presented to us, a few days since by Mr. Frederic Aborn, of this city. Capt. L. W. Glidden, of Etna, sends us a head of hedges eleven and one-half inches in length.

The Lincoln Democrat speaks of the crops in that section as follows:—"Last week was a most admirable one for the work of the season, and a large proportion of our hay crop was secured in capital order. We regret to learn that this crop will not be so large as last year, though the quality is represented as much superior. The other crops are growing finely, and promise an abundant harvest."

With regard to the crops in York county, the Biddford Union says:—"Vegetation is exceedingly rich in its growth this year. The warm weather, accompanied, as it has been, with frequent showers, has put vegetation of all kinds ahead with unusual rapidity. Corn looks finely, and promises an abundant crop. The weather has not been so very favorable to hay-making, but it has been good for everything else in the way of Agriculture. The fields in the county and the gardens in the city never looked more beautiful, or promised larger crops. On Monday, we saw several peas, which had attained the height of eight feet, and looked as if they might go over several feet higher. They were in the garden of E. H. C. Hooper, of our city, and of the Champion variety, and the best pea which can be raised."

The Rockland Gazette states that the farmers in that vicinity appear to be in the midst of haying, and learn that the crop is coming in quite abundantly. The other crops, such as grain, potatoes, &c., also promise well. The Lewiston Falls Journal, of the 21st, has the following:—"Every article of vegetation in this section is pushing ahead at a rapid rate, and ere one month there must be a great decrease in the price of provisions of every kind. The prospect for a large quantity of hay never so better. In many fields the grass looked as green and vigorous as it has during any time of the season. In other fields where it was being cut and made into hay, it showed an almost unprecedentedly large yield. The crops of wheat which might well excite the envy of any Genesee wheat raiser. The appearance of one field in particular, convinced us that all that is necessary to enable Maine to raise her own flour is a more careful cultivation of the soil."

From Oxford county the State of Maine has reports that the crops are coming in finely, and that the country was never in a finer condition for haying. Referring to the general prospects for harvest throughout the State, the Portland Advertiser says:—"From gentlemen who have been in different parts of the State, we learn that crops of all kinds never looked better at this time of the year. The hay crop is as good as it possibly could be, considering the season, and the potatoes, previous years. As the grass is not yet done growing, farmers appear in no hurry to cut it. Potatoes are well bottomed and corn is fast making up for the coldness of June."

So much for Maine. Accounts from other parts of the Union are quite as favorable. A leading firm in Cincinnati having issued a circular to their Western correspondents, asking for information on the state of the crops, report the following result:—"In reply to a circular of inquiry, issued three weeks since to our Western correspondents, in regard to the crops, we have some two hundred letters from parties who have taken pains to inform themselves on the subject, and whose judgment can be relied on. There is a small strip of country in Central Indiana and Northern Ohio where the late frosts and heavy rains did some damage to the wheat and corn, but from all other parts of the West we have the most favorable reports. With the single exception of Beef Cattle, which appear to be scarce—this year's crop (now mostly harvested and safe) will be the largest in yield, and the best in quality, ever before grown."

The Buffalo Republican, speaking of the wheat-crop, makes the following estimate:—"The increase of the crop of wheat this year will be twenty-two millions of bushels more than in 1850, and forty millions more than last year. According to this calculation the yield will be 114,500,000 bushels in the grain growing States. In this connection it must also be remembered that the exhaustion of wheat last year was attributable in a large degree to the failure of other crops as well as to that of this grain. There was a full crop of corn, and in addition to this, there was not more than one fourth of a crop of vegetables. Consequently, wheat was consumed to a much greater extent than it would have been had there been a full crop of wheat, and the crops of other grains, and all kinds of vegetables, promise to be unusually large. There must be an abundant supply of all kinds of provisions for export if required."

We think our readers may feel confident of a material decline in the prices of breadstuffs. Speculators, who have attempted to control the supply and prices of flour and grain, will find that they have undertaken a task beyond their powers to accomplish. But a few days since, a number of speculators who had stored a large amount of corn in New Orleans, bought at \$1.10, were forced to sell at 85 cts., and were left with a loss. Flour, purchased at \$10.00, has been offered in New York for \$7.00, without purchasers, and buyers refused to contract for flour from now wheat at \$5.00, delivered after the harvest. These are good tidings.

We shall continue our reports of the prospects of the harvest, as it is a subject in which all our readers are interested.

AGRICULTURAL EXHIBITION IN BROAD ISLAND. There is to be a grand Agricultural Exhibition in Providence, R. I., commencing on the 11th of September, and continuing a week, which bids fair, so far as horses are concerned, to take the lead of anything of the kind yet attempted. Provision is open to all the States and British Provinces. As the great feature of the exhibition is to be the horse, the show of cattle, sheep, swine and poultry and the ploughing match, is confined to the first day. A sale by auction will take place on the last day. This, it is thought will be an inducement to distant owners having fine horses to dispose of to send them for exhibition. Arrangements will probably be made with most of the railroads to convey passengers and stock at reduced rates, and we hope that our neighbors of "Little Rhody" may have a general attendance, and reap a rich harvest for their enterprise. Seven thousand dollars are appropriated by the State for the payment of premiums and expenses.

CHANGE OF LEVEL. The Brunswick Telegraph states that a body of workmen engaged in sinking a large reservoir at the foot of the Mall, in that town, found, at a depth of fifteen feet from the surface, indisputable evidence that the tides of the ocean had once ebb'd and flow'd upon that spot. Such signs are sometimes found at much greater distances from the coast, and farther from the surface of the earth.

## THE LATE ACCIDENT AT NO. VASSALBORO.

Mr. Editor.—I see by a communication in your paper of July 12th, that Benj. G. Weeks of Vassalboro', was killed on the 4th inst. at the corner of the railroad, that he had a gun loaded with buck shot, and was standing with his hand upon the muzzle of the gun, and leaning his head upon his hand, when in some manner the gun was discharged and the charge entered his head, killing him instantly.

Who your informant may be I know not, but allow me to say, that in this unfortunate tragedy, the facts widely differ from the account published in your paper and all other papers. The facts are these:—

There was understood to be a celebration at North Vassalboro', on the fourth inst., and B. G. Weeks was there, with his gun loaded with powder, when he was solicited by Alonzo for the gun. He stated to him that the gun was heavily charged, and he would fire it and then he might have it, as he chose to fire it himself, and was attempting to move out of the circle to consummate that object, when Mr. Freeman Johnson stopped down and carelessly cocked and fired the gun, (as was abundantly proved before the coroner's inquest, together with his own admission,) the contents putting out one of his eyes and entering his head, killing him instantly. There was no mutilation of any other part of the body.

I also signed by a number of citizens of N. Vassalboro', the cause of the accident to interperence. Although they acknowledge the young man strictly temperate, still they are pleased to say that it is a well known fact to many, that a number of persons in the immediate vicinity of the deceased, appeared to be under the influence of liquor, he residing in the East part of the town, some three miles distant.

In answer, I must say that a more temperate, law-abiding, peace-loving neighborhood cannot be found in the county. Although about all my neighbors were present, I am satisfied no one tasted any intoxicating liquor for the day. At any rate, there is no man in this section who has the name of being temperate. I deem it due to myself, to my family and friends, to correct these mis-statements that are going the rounds of the press, believing in the fullness of time that an impartial and unprejudiced community will not hesitate to report the facts in the case, without fear, affection, or favor.

REUBEN WEEKS.  
East Vassalboro', July 16, 1855.

## GATHERED NEWS FRAGMENTS, &amp;c.

Something New under the Sun. We have before us, says the Boston Traveller, a sample of corn, from a lot of two hundred and ninety-three bags brought to this city a few days since in a Tally Ho, from Winesboro, coast of Africa. The importation of this useful article from that quarter, is a circumstance we never before heard of. The corn resembles our white Southern corn, but the kernels are somewhat smaller. It is said to weigh well.

Important Decision Regarding the Bridging of Common Roads. The Roxbury Times says, "we understand that the Superior Court of Massachusetts has decided, in case of the City of Roxbury vs. the Boston & Providence Railway Company, that the Railway Company is not bound to bridge the crossing on the main road in Roxbury." The grounds of the decision were these: That the City having once allowed the construction of the railway track on the level, has not the right to require the company afterwards to bridge the crossing.

The Sandwich Islands. The Washington correspondent of the New York Courier states that the recent convention concluded by Mr. Lee, the Minister from the Sandwich Islands to our government, had for its main object the investment of our Commissioner and Consuls with powers and jurisdiction over American residents; who, like other foreigners, are too much disposed to set at defiance the authority of the native government.

Pennsylvania Public Works put up at Auction. Philadelphia, July 24. About 300 persons assembled in the Exchange this evening, to witness the sale of the main line of our public works. Governor Pollock and other State officials were present. The auctioneer stated the terms of the sale, and that no bid less than \$750,000 could be received. He then proposed \$1,500,000 and gradually descended to \$750,000, without receiving a single bid. After a delay of some time the sale was adjourned sine die.

Pardons by the President. The President has pardoned six riotous boys, who were in jail for bad behavior; also remitted the residue of the imprisonment of five U. S. seamen, confined in the Penitentiary of the District of Columbia under sentence of court-martial, for mutinous conduct and language.

Property and Taxation in New York. The aggregate value of the real and personal property in the city of New York, as assessed for the year 1855, is \$486,998,278, being an increase of \$24,712,487 over the valuation of last year. The rate of tax is about one hundred and twenty cents on every one hundred dollars, making a levy of nearly six millions of dollars for the support of the municipal government of one single city. Extending the population to 799,000, the tax is about eight dollars for every man, woman, and child in the city.

Liquor Stolen. The Calais Advertiser says that the "city Lookout" was broken into, on the night of the 12th ult., and 14 out of 18 casks of liquor stolen. The quantity of the stolen liquor was estimated at \$300,000, and is offered by the authorities, for the discovery and conviction of the rogues.

Launched. On Monday, 16th ult., a fine bark of 1000 tons, called "San Jacinto," from the yard of W. Grant of Farmington.

Child Drowned. At Kendall's Mills, on Monday last week, a little child of Mr. Lambert, two or three years old, was drowned by falling into a cistern.

The steamer America. The steamer America, which was built and owned by the Hon. J. W. Weeks, and was on her way from San Francisco to Crescent City, was on board a cargo of U. S. Infantry, numbering 132 men, under command of Major Prince. The steamer came to anchor at Crescent City, and was on the point of departure on her voyage when she was found to be on fire, and she burned to the water's edge in a very short time. The fire is supposed to have been caused by spontaneous combustion. All the cargo was saved. The America was built in New York in 1853, and was a very fine steamer. She was owned by Capt. J. T. Wright, whose loss is \$140,000, in which there is no insurance.

Death of Major Brown. Major T. S. Brown, the distinguished Engineer-in-Chief of the New York & Erie Railroad, who entered the engineering service of Russia in the place made vacant by the death of Col. Whistler, died at Naples, on the 30th of June last. Major Brown resided much during his five years residence in Russia, and last winter went to Italy, hoping that a season in a mild climate would restore his shattered health, but the remedy came too late. The deceased was a graduate of West Point.

## THE CHARMED SNAKE ILLUSION EXPLODED.

Our readers have already been informed of the alleged charms exerted by a black snake upon a little girl, daughter of Lyford C. Hill, of Gilmanston, N. H., and within the present week the girl and snake have been on exhibition at the corner of the railroad, this city. Wednesday afternoon several gentlemen of the press, and others, paid a visit to that place to witness for themselves the remarkable phenomenon. When they entered the Hall an exhibition was just closing, and the snake was kept in a box for fifteen minutes, at the expiration of which time Mr. Hill opened the box and told the girl to take hold of the snake. She did so with evident trepidation, and taking hold of it too far the thumb, causing it to bleed profusely. The girl screamed with terror, and the father, seeing the trouble, with considerable difficulty succeeded in getting the snake back into the box. Dr. Ayer of the Chronicle, thinking it was not enough of "charmed snakes," determined to have a stop put to the exhibition, if possible. He accordingly repaired to the City Hall and ascertained that Hill had no license to exhibit, but merely a permit from the Chief of Police. He then went to Justice Rogers of the Police Court and entered a complaint, whereupon the Justice issued a warrant for the apprehension of Hill, on the ground that he was "restraining the child from her liberty, and employing her in an unlawful and injurious calling." In the meantime, the spectators at the Hall—a hundred or more—became much excited by what they had seen, and did not hesitate to express their feelings in very angry tones of voice, but offered no violence. Hill was, however, arrested by officers Tallant and committed.

In the Police Court, Thursday, the man Hill, owner of the "charmed" snake, and father of the "charmed" girl, was bound over to his trial in the Municipal Court.

Improvement. The store recently occupied by E. & M. M. Swan at the corner of Hill & W. Broadway, undergoing the process of reconstruction, with "all the modern improvements." The upper story has been raised several feet, and the whole structure rebuilt, with an addition in rear on Concord street, of a cold storage brick instead of the former kiln burned material, presenting an unusually handsome exterior. By the new arrangement two spacious offices will be thrown open besides the shop in the lower story. When finished, it will be an exceedingly fine establishment throughout.

The second story is to be occupied, we understand, as a law office, and by the firm of J. G. Holcomb & a Daguerrian Saloon, for which it will be admirably adapted. This store is situated among the old stores, formerly used, and is consequently in the centre of Astor row, which takes its name from the former passage way. Its superior height to the neighboring stores therefore produces no appearance of want of symmetry, but quite the contrary. [Age.]

ARREST FOR SWINDLING—PATENT SAFE GAME. At the Police Court, yesterday, a man called himself James Perkins, of Boston, was arrested for swindling Jacob Richardson out of a watch, valued at \$30, and \$7 in bills; and, also, cheating Charles Chase out of \$5. Perkins had a lock of peculiar construction, which he was willing to bet \$20, nothing in the crowd could pick. As the sole article all dead yet, he had a few bets, and of course won. Perkins showed himself quite an adept in the science, fixing his locks in a very clever manner, so as to open or not, as he pleased. The court thought he had better be put under a close guard, and so he was bound over in the sum of \$250, for the first offence; and sentenced to pay a fine of \$20 and costs, and 30 days in the house of correction for the second. Richardson was formerly a policeman. [State of Maine, 25th.]

ACCIDENT FROM BURNING FIELD. On Saturday evening last, as Mr. Henry S. Temple, at his Auction Room, standing in a chair, was about lighting a hanging lamp by a fluid lamp, the chair tipped, and threw him down, breaking the fluid lamp in the fall. In order to prevent the fire from communicating to the premises he kept the lamp, which was burning, outside of the door, and he was severely burned on the right hand inside and out, and up almost to the elbow, and also on the left hand, the skin of which he lost. Dr. Stacey was immediately in attendance and dressed the wounds.

[Bangor Journal, 30th.]

DEATH OF A CHILD. A remarkable and deeply afflictive event occurred in Washington street this forenoon. A child, three years of age, had been taken by its mother to a daguerrotype room for the purpose of obtaining a likeness. Just after the operation had been finished, the child, who was seated by an open window, reached out unnumbered by its mother, and fell upon the sidewalk—and in a few minutes, the little features which had just been stamped upon the daguerrotype plate, were fixed in death. [Boston Traveller, 25th.]

TRADE WITH SIAM. The treaty of commerce recently negotiated between Great Britain and Siam by Dr. Dowling, is of much value to the United States. The Siam trade is an important one, and the treaty made by Dr. Dowling, it appears that the government of the United States negotiated a treaty with Siam in 1833, which with a few exceptions was a mere transcript of the treaty made by Great Britain with that government with the East India Company.

Through the duplicity and cunning of the Siam, the treaty was of little value to the United States. It was expected that the treaty would open the port of Bangkok to a considerable trade, but it had the opposite effect of closing it altogether. The treaty however contained one article of great importance; it provided that any commercial privilege which might in coming time be granted to any European nation, should also be enjoyed by the United States. In consequence of this provision, the present treaty made by Dr. Dowling will bring new advantages to the United States.

At present at least we have no trade with Siam—a port which opens to us a country inhabited by a population of from three to five millions of inhabitants. [Boston Journal.]

THE SANDWICH ISLANDS TREATY. We understand that the Secretary of State and the Hon. William L. Gales, Hawaiian Majesty's Minister to this Government, yesterday signed a treaty of commercial reciprocity between the United States and the Sandwich Islands. An instrument of this character has long been desired, and especially since California and Oregon have become such extensive consumers of the tropical productions which grow so luxuriantly in those islands. We do not pretend to be particularly informed as to the provisions of the treaty, but if its stipulations are in conformity to what is understood to be its title, we have no doubts that it will be mutually and greatly advantageous. [Washington Union, 21st.]

CITIZEN'S MEETING. A full meeting of citizens opposed to the administration of Mayor Dow was held at City Hall, on Monday evening last, when resolutions were passed expressing renewed condemnation of the measures resorted to by Mayor Dow to suppress the riot of June 23, denouncing the report of the Investigating Committee, and the action of the City Government in voting to print the same, &c. Speeches were made by Messrs. Josiah W. Little, Samuel J. Anderson, John Rand, George Evans and Nathan Clifford. [Portland Transcript.]

THE LARGEST STEAMER Afloat. On the 3d ult., the steamship Persia, the first iron paddle-steamer built for the service of the British and North American Steam Company, was launched from the building yard of Messrs. Robert Napier & Sons, at Govan near Glasgow, Scotland. The Persia is the largest steamer built in capacity of hull and steam power, which has been built.

She far exceeds in length, strength, tonnage and steam power, the Great Britain or the Himalaya, and exceeds also by no less than 1,200 tons the internal capacity of the largest of the present Cunard liners. Her chief proportions may be summed up as follows: Length from figure head to tail, 320 feet; breadth of the hull, 45 feet; breadth over all, 71 feet; depth, 32 feet.

## DEFEAT OF THE NICARAGUAN EXPEDITION.

New York, July 25. Advice from San Juan del Sur state that the Walker Expedition met with a disastrous defeat at Rivas being driven out of the town with the loss of twenty men. The native recruits had previously deserted the filibusters.

Col. Walker fled towards San Juan, hotly pursued by the government troops, and in his flight threw off his coat, containing all his letters, which were secured by his pursuers. He finally escaped with a few followers, and passing through San Juan, in the night of the 6th of July, seized a schooner in the harbor, and went to parts unknown.

FURTHER PARTICULARS. New York, July 26. The correspondent of the Herald at Rivas, gives some details of Col. Walker's movements in that region. Walker arrived with 50 men, and on the 14th of June, and proceeded to Chinandega, where he was joined by a force of 150 Central American troops, under the command of Colonels Mendez and Ramirez, furnished by Colonel Walker with 1000 dollars. This force he proceeded to the invasion of Nicaragua. On approaching Rivas, they took a small outpost by surprise, and then attacked the town. The fight was sanguinary, but in the midst of it, the Central American troops, and their officers deserted, leaving Col. Walker's small band hemmed in by two bodies of hostile troops.

In this dilemma, Walker retreated to a planter's house in the neighborhood, where he sustained the combat for two hours, against over three hundred assailants, until simultaneously the building was stormed in front, and set fire to in the rear, when the Colonel and his remaining men broke through the enemy and fled to the fields, whence he found his way to Leon de Nicaragua. Thirteen Americans were killed and their bodies burned. The Government party, it is said, had thirty men killed, and about the same number wounded; among the killed of Colonel Walker's party were A. Kewen, the second in command, Lieutenant R. T. Merriman, and F. Anderson, Dr. Jones, and Dr. N. H. Davis.

Among the documents that have fallen into the hands of the Government is the original contract between Walker, Col. Walker and the Government for fifty-two thousand acres of land in Nicaragua.

The correspondent of the Daily News, who gives a narrative similar to the Herald's, intimates that Walker arrived alone at San Juan, where he recruited four hundred Americans, and getting on board an Italian brig, proceeded towards Realp.

THE DEATH OF COL. WALKER'S EXPEDITION. New York, July 28th. A correspondent of the Herald, writing from Granada, states that among the dead of Walker's expedition, were recognized the bodies of Mr. Julius De Brissot, and Capt. Hornsby, who both were recently Attaches to the American Legation in Central America.

CHICAGO GRANARIES. These are great and becoming greater every day. That of the Galena Railroad Company is nearly completed, and is a stupendous building, presenting an imposing front. It will contain 1,500,000 bushels of grain, and will be a valuable addition to the city. It is situated on the Chicago River, and will be a valuable addition to the city.

FROM MEXICO.—New York, July 24. The correspondent of the Tribune, writing from Mexico, on the Mexican frontier, states that the little war between the United States and the revolutionists and Gen. Wool, the Mexican commander, at Matamoros, would be decisive, and throw all the frontier custom houses into the hands of Carvajal and his party, should they prove successful. Gen. Wool expected to be beaten, and had sent all his valuables across the river into Texas. The revolutionists have 2000 men and eight pieces of artillery. They propose to form a federation of the three Northern States of Tamaulipas, Coahuila and Nuevo Leon.

LATER FROM MEXICO.—New Orleans, July 25. The steamer Orizaba arrived to-day from Vera Cruz with dates from Mexico of the 19th. The capital was quiet. Santa Anna was reported to be willing to make concessions to the insurgents. His family were to leave the country for the 26th, in the steamer Turbide, from Vera Cruz. The father-in-law of Santa Anna, it is reported, has been appointed Minister to the United States in place of M. Almonte.

THE COURT OF CLAIMS. Washington, July 25. The following are the Commissioners appointed in the New England States by the Judges of the Court of Claims:—Maine, Messrs. John W. Dana, Portland; J. O'Donnell, Bangor; Charles S. Davis, do; James T. McCobb, do; Daniel Williams, Augusta.

New Hampshire. Messrs. A. R. Hatch, Portsmouth; Benjamin F. Ayer, Manchester; Wm. Foster, Concord; J. D. Sleeper, Haverhill; H. Hubbard, Jr., Charlestown.

Vermont. Mr. Chas. L. Williams, Rutland.

Massachusetts. Messrs. Edward G. Loring, Boston; Daniel S. Gilchrist, do; Charles L. Woodbury, do; John H. Olden, do;







RECRUITING.

**The Story-Teller.**  
**THE ESTRANGED BROTHERS.**

## THE ESTRANGED BROTHER

